



2002 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Reminiscent of 1994, the 2002 growing season was long and cool with a couple of heat spikes in early October that served to bring the grapes home. Small crops produced complex, concentrated flavors draped over flawless structure. Norm Roby writes in Decanter: "2002 may change the way many international wine lovers think about California Cabernet Sauvignon. The finest and most typical wines avoid that juicy-jammy opulent style that is so obvious but often lets you down in the finish."

Brimming with plum and blackberry fruit with hints of cocoa, the 2002 is expansive and deep, while at the same time, supple and balanced with a long, satisfying finish.

~ Cathy Corison, August 2005

Retrospective Reviews:

vinography
a wine blog

Dark ruby in color with a hint of garnet, this wine smells of plum and cherry and dried flowers. In the mouth, gorgeously bright berry fruit mixes with cedar and forest floor and a nice citrusy zing thanks to fantastic acidity. Bright, delicious, and very long. Very fine, powdery tannins stretch supple and smooth like the arch of a cat's back. Incredible length and depth. Supple and smooth and simply stunning. Score: between **9.5** and **10**.

Alder Yarrow, *vinography.com*, 6.27.2015

**NAPA
VALLEY
THEN &
NOW**

Like the 2004, this is one of the riper, richer vintages of Corison (though still more restrained than many from the vintage!). A big mouthful of black fruits - plum, cassis and pomegranate - with black tea, black olives, grilled rosemary, and a deep minerality.

Kelli White, *Napa Valley Then & Now*, 2015

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

92+ After just writing a feature on Cathy Corison's beautiful wines, I was very pleased to taste a vintage of her Napa bottling that I had not tried previously. The 2002 vintage here came in at 13.6 percent octane and is a classic in the making, offering up a fine, still youthful bouquet of red and black cherries, cigar smoke, Rutherford Bench soil tones, violets, just a touch of dried eucalyptus and a gentle base of cedary new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and ripely tannic, with a fine core of fruit, lovely soil signature, excellent focus and a long, nascently complex and beautifully balanced finish. This is a fine, fine bottle in the making, but it is still on the young side and needs more time in the cellar to fully blossom.

John Gilman, *July-August 2017*, #70

John Winthrop Haeger

Transparent deep garnet color. Smooth texture with just light grip at mid-palate. The blackberry this wine showed ten years ago has largely disappeared, replaced by a concerto of aromas and flavors. Gum camphor, violets, green olives, hints of tobacco and exotic peppercorns like Laotian Mack Khen. Very fresh with some citrus peel and other high-toned accents. This is the beauty of a long, cool vintage when the wine it gave approaches maturity. Relatively low alcohol at 13.6°; natural acidity keeps the palate lively; now savory in many manifestations, and floral too. If you don't polish it off in a first go, what's left in the carafe on Day Two is still a pleasure indeed.

February 19, 2023

Reviews Upon Release:



97 Another masterpiece from Cathy Corison, engaging and elegant, but with enough concentration for extended aging. A rich and complete mouthfeel with juicy fruit balanced with good acidity. The finish is long and harmonious.

Larry Walker, Wine International, 22 November 2005

Decanter

California Cabernet 2002 / THE BEST OF 2002

★★★★ Corison Winery, Napa Valley

Cassis and blackberry, soft grained tannins, multilayered, classic structure. *Norm Roby, Decanter, April 2005*



91(+1) Dark ruby-red. High-pitched aromas of cassis, violet and bitter chocolate. Juicy flavors of dark berries and baking spices, with a firm edge of acidity giving the wine shape and grip and a floral element contributing to the wine's inner-mouth aromatic character. Very fresh and firmly built wine, with the balance and backbone to develop in bottle for a decade or more. The pH here is a moderate 3.55, without acidification.

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, Issue 120, May/June 2005



91 This wine unfolds to reveal loads of very keen fruit layered with caramel, cocoa and vanilla and is accented with a touch of distinctive Cabernet loam. Its precise flavors live up to billing with a like-minded mix of deep fruit and lovely oak... All the more remarkable, the wine does not call upon blatant ripeness or sinewy extracts to achieve its ready richness, and it gets high marks for poise and real style as well as depth and complexity.

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, April 2006



★★★★ Fleshy and ripely flavored, this is a complex, medium rich, well-balanced wine, tasting of black currant, blueberry, baked cherry, toast and spicy oak. Long, persistent finish. *Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, Issue #111, March 2006*